

## 2008 Director's Award Recipients

The spotlight shines on MDOT's 2008 Director's Award recipients. This is the highest recognition given to MDOT employees.

### Administrative Support - Kathy Reincke



Kathy Reincke, Executive Secretary, C & T Division, Highway Delivery, Lansing, provides administrative support to the C & T Engineer, and is C&T's liaison with other MDOT divisions, bureaus, and the public.

Kathy is an employee who takes initiative and leads by example. She cares deeply about MDOT; her work ethic, loyalty, and trustworthiness are admired by those she works with.

Kathy exemplified MDOT's value of Pride when she organized a team of volunteers to donate money to purchase planting supplies. A date was set and Kathy and her group cleaned, cleared, and planted flowers and greenery to enhance the entrance of the C&T building. The team continues this work today.

### Officials & Administrators - Randy VanPortfliet



Randy VanPortfliet, Region Engineer, is responsible for the management and operation of the Superior Region.

Leading by example, Randy effectively utilizes the performance management process to set expectations and track accomplishments for his direct reports. All Superior Region supervisors follow his example. The success of this approach is evident in the consistent, positive performance ratings for region staff across the board and over the course of many years.

Randy exemplifies MDOT's value of Quality by demonstrating his commitment to quality work. This is evidenced by Randy's work on the Spec Book re-write and the Construction Tech Competency Program.

### Professional - Julie VanPortfliet



Julie VanPortfliet, Bituminous Soils Engineer, Superior Region Office, oversees the region's bituminous program and soils investigations, and is the region's authority on bituminous pavement mix designs and soils engineering.

Julie is a well-known resource for environmental issues, especially those involving wetlands, soils, and sedimentation. She worked closely with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and others at MDOT to develop and implement MDOT's Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Program.

Julie exemplified MDOT's value of Teamwork when she organized two MDEQ divisions, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, to address removing non-hazardous contaminated soil at a maintenance storage site. She coordinated the investigation, provided full disclosure and cooperation, and arranged for the testing and subsequent cleanup.

#### Professional Supervisor - Jason Latham



Jason Latham, Region Planner, Southwest Region, is responsible for planning, environmental, and multi-modal activities throughout the region as well as coordinating activities of the TSCs, the region office, Lansing , and locals.

Jason has a deep commitment to MDOT's mission. "Customer-focused," "innovative solutions" and "sensitivity" describe his approach to working with others. Three of the many projects he was involved with - the Benton Harbor City of Promise Program, the Harbor Shores project, the US-131 bypass at Constantine , and the region's Tribal Government efforts - have brought, or will bring new jobs to southwest Michigan .

Jason exemplified MDOT's value of Customer Orientation when he went door-to-door to seek input with residents and businesses to gather input for the proposed aesthetic improvements to the M-63 Bridge over Higanman Park Road . As a result of the rapport he built with local residents and business owners, MDOT has a wonderful reputation with the Harbor Shores community.

#### Skilled Crafts & Labor/Safety - Samuel Pruitt, Jr.



Samuel Pruitt, Jr., Crew Leader, Metro Region Office, oversees contracted inspectors and performs a variety of electrical inspections and maintenance tasks. He is responsible for verifying that a maintenance contractor's work conforms to MDOT specifications and applicable electrical codes.

Samuel is an electrical inspector on the Wayne County Maintenance Contract. His suggestions on how to improve locations, materials, and methods has saved money on projects. Samuel shares his expertise and works with others to improve the quality of MDOT's lighting projects.

Samuel exemplifies MDOT's value of Quality on a daily basis as he conducts his inspection of the lighting systems before his regular shift starts. This enables him to give a detailed list of lighting outages/issues to the contractors at the beginning of the day, allowing the contractors to get more done during each shift. Through his many efforts, MDOT currently experiences an outage rate of less than one percent for Wayne County 's 8000+ lighting units. This is almost unheard of in the industry.

#### Technical - Richard Lapalm



Richard Lapalm, Construction Technician, Taylor TSC, Metro Region, is the Technical Assistant and Second Line Lead Worker who assists in overseeing the work of multiple construction crews within the TSC. He has oversight responsibilities for inspection, surveying, and office work on the construction of highways, bridges, and allied transportation facilities. He also assists with the project development process.

Richard has a reputation as an honest, ethical, and gifted construction tech within MDOT as well as with contractors, other state agencies, and the public. Richard is a recognized expert in the construction field who is respected by everyone he works with.

Richard exemplifies MDOT's value of Pride when he makes presentations to high schools, outside engineers, and at MDOT meetings on the construction of the twin tied-arch bridges at the I-94/US-24 interchange. These award-winning bridges are something he is very proud to have been a part of and he loves to share this MDOT success story with others.

#### Technical Supervisor - Timothy Smith



Timothy Smith, Traffic Technician Supervisor, Metro Region Office, coordinates the inventory and analysis of traffic control devices on state trunkline in the Metro Region. He also works on the establishment and/or revision of vehicular speed, parking, and right-of-way regulations; develops and implements special pavement marking projects; and, works on other region-wide work zone activities.

Tim is the person who "makes it happen" for traffic and safety technical management in the Metro Region. He is a key contributor to the statewide Workzone Safety training program.

Tim exemplified MDOT's value of Quality when, during the preparation for Super Bowl XL, he volunteered to personally drive the roads leading to the stadium, to ensure the traffic control devices were placed properly and that all was ready for the big event.